2/22/07 181

Dear House Judiciary Committee,

We, the Undersigned stand in firm agreement that the State of Montana must have accountability in its Racial Profiling Law.

We believe that House Bill 781, Racial Profiling Data Collection is the best step in that direction. We can follow states like Texas and Missouri as leaders in this movement. The implementation of data collection systems will lead to countless benefits for police departments and communities around our state. This data collection process will:

- ⇒ Send a strong message to our communities that our law enforcement agencies are against racial profiling and that racial profiling is inconsistent with effective policing and equal protection
- **⊃** Build trust and respect for the police in the communities they serve
- Provide departments with information about the types of stops being made by officers, the proportion of police time spent on high-discretion stops, and the results of such stops
- ⇒ Help shape and develop training programs to educate officers about racial profiling and interactions with the community
- ➡ Enable the development of police and community dialogue to assess the quality and quantity of police-citizen encounters
- Allay community concerns about the activities of police
- ➡ Identify potential police misconduct and deter it, when implemented as part of a comprehensive early warning system
- ⇒ Retain autonomous officer discretion and allow for flexible responses in different situations

We urge you to vote to pass House Bill 781,

Sincerely,

Greg Farish

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Kathy Dervy

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Dustin Hankinson East Missoula

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Auralia Beaumont

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Michelle Bigback

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Sincerely,

Robert Bigback

Butte

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We can follow states like Texas and Missouri as leaders in this movement. The implementation

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